[CONSTITUTION as of 1949]

646 Art. 36. A member of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR may not be prosecuted or arrested without the consent of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR, or, when the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR is not in session, without the consent of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR.

643 Art. 37. On the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of
644 the Russian SFSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR orders
[643] new elections to be held within a period not exceeding two months from the date of expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 38. On the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR retains its powers until the newly-elected Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR shall have formed a new presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 39. The newly-elected Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR is convened by the outgoing Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR not later than three months after the elections.

645 Art. 40. The Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR appoints the Government of
[641] the Russian SFSR, namely, the Council of Ministers of the Russian SFSR.

Chapter IV. The Organs of State Administration of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic

Art. 41. The highest executive and administrative organ of state power of the Russian SFSR is the Council of Ministers of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 42. The Council of Ministers of the Russian SFSR is responsible and accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR, or, in the intervals between sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR, to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 43. The Council of Ministers of the Russian SFSR issues decisions and orders on the basis and in pursuance of the laws in operation of the USSR and the Russian SFSR, and of the decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and verifies their execution.

Art. 44. Decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the Russian SFSR are binding throughout the territory of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 45. The Council of Ministers of the Russian SFSR:

a) Coordinates and directs the work of the Ministries of the Russian SFSR and of other institutions under its jurisdiction; coordinates and verifies the work of the authorised representatives of the all-Union Ministries;

b) Adopts measures to carry out the national-economic plan;

c) Adopts measures to fulfil the state and local budgets of the Russian SFSR;

d) Adopts measures for the maintenance of public order, for the protection of the interests of the state, and for the safeguarding of the rights of citizens;

e) Directs and verifies the work of the Councils of Ministers of the Autonomous Republics, directs and verifies the work of the Executive Committees of territorial and regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies;

[Constitution as of 1949]

641 [687] Art. 137. To defend the fatherland is the sacred duty of every citizen of the Russian SFSR. Treason to the country -- violation of the oath of allegiance, desertion to the enemy, impairing the military power of the State, espionage - is punishable with all the severity of the law and is the most heinous of crime.

Chapter XII. The Electoral System

● 666 Art. 138. Elections of deputies to all Soviets of Working People's Deputies, the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR, territorial and regional Soviets of Working People's Deputies, Supreme Soviets of Autonomous Republics, Soviets of Working People's Deputies of Autonomous Regions, Soviets of Working People's Deputies of National and administrative Areas, districts, cities and rural localities (stanitsas, villages, hamlets and auls) are chosen by the electors on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

Art. 139. Elections of deputies are universal: all citizens of the Russian SFSR who have reached the age of 18, irrespective of race, or nationality, sex, religion, educational or residential qualifications, social origin, property status or past activities, have the right to vote in the election of deputies and to be elected, with the exception of insane persons and persons who have been convicted by a court of law and whose sentences include deprivation of electoral rights.

[641] Every citizen of the Russian SFSR who has reached the age of 21, irrespective of race, or nationality, sex, religion, educational or residential qualifications, social origin, property status or past activities may be elected as a deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR.

Art. 140. Elections of deputies are equal: each citizen has one vote; all citizens participate in elections on an equal footing.

[92] Art. 141. Women have the right to elect and to be elected on equal terms with men.

[641] Art. 142. Citizens serving in the ranks of the Armed Forces of the USSR have the right to elect and be elected on equal terms with all other citizens.

Art. 143. Elections of deputies are direct: all Soviets of Working People's Deputies from the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of villages and cities to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR, inclusive, are elected by the citizens by direct vote.

Art. 144. Voting at elections of deputies is secret.

Art. 145. Elections to the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of the Russian SFSR are held by election districts on the following ~~bases~~

in elections to territorial and regional Soviets - one deputy for every 1,500 to 60,000 of its population, depending upon the size of the territory or region;

in elections to the regional Soviets of Autonomous Regions - one deputy for every 1,500 to 3,500 of its population, depending upon the size of the Autonomous Region;

in elections to ~~Area~~ Soviets of National Areas - one deputy for every 300 to 8,000 of its population, depending upon the size of the National Area;

in elections to area Soviets of administrative areas - one deputy for every 500 to 10,000 of its population, depending upon the size of the administrative area;

5: Amer. Russ. Inst. (no date) 1950 RF1 Great Russia RF1

[Constitution as of 1949]

666 in elections to district Soviets - one deputy for every 1,000 of its population; a district with a population below 25,000 elects 25 deputies; a district with a population above 60,000 elects no more than 60 deputies;

In elections to city Soviets or city district Soviets - one deputy for every 350 to 1,000 of the population depending upon the size of the city; in a city or city district whose population does not exceed 12,000 35 deputies are elected;

in elections to the city Soviets of Moscow and Leningrad - one deputy for every 3,000 of their population;

elections to village and settlement Soviets - one deputy for every 100 of the population; rural localities (stanitsas, hamlets, auls) and settlements with a population below 1,000 elect 9 deputies; those whose population exceeds 2,500 - no more than 25 deputies.

The basis of representation for each Soviet of Working People's Deputies of territory, region, Autonomous Region, National and administrative Area, district, city, village and settlement is fixed in the Ordinance concerning Elections to Soviets of Working People's Deputies of Territories, Regions, Areas, Districts, Cities, Villages and Settlements of the Russian SFSR within the range of the bases of representation indicated in the present article.

Art. 146. Candidates for elections are nominated according to electoral districts.

The right to nominate candidates is secured to public organizations and societies of the working people: Communist Party organizations, trade unions, co-operatives, youth organizations and cultural societies.

Art. 147. It is the duty of every deputy to report to his electors on his work and on the work of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies, and he is liable to be recalled at any time upon decision of the majority of the electors in the manner established by law.

Chapter XIII. Arms, Flag, Capital

186 Art. 148. The arms of the Russian SFSR are a sickle and hammer of gold placed crosswise, handles down, against a red background in the rays of the sun and surrounded by ears of grain, with the inscriptions "RSFSR" and "Workers of All Countries, Unite!"

Art. 149. The state flag of the Russian SFSR is of red cloth with a gold sickle and hammer and the gold letters "RSFSR" placed in the upper corner near the staff.

Art. 150. The capital of the Russian SFSR is the city of Moscow.

Chapter XIV. Procedure for Amending the Constitution

642 Art. 151. The Constitution of the Russian SFSR may be amended only by decision of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian SFSR adopted by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the votes of the Supreme Soviet.

000 This translation was made from a Russian text, with amendments through March 13, 1948, published by the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR in 1948. Additional amendments were incorporated from texts published in Izvestia through May 27, 1949.